

CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD

MINUTES

May 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

11:33 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Doyle, Dave Payne, Dennis Peterson, M.C. Beeby, Jane Kollmeyer, Melissa Lewis. John Carter was excused.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

City Commissioner Andres Haladay

County Commissioner Andy Hunthausen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Marr, Amy Teegarden, Liz Jones, Carol Kirkland, George Thebarge

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

A quorum was present.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

The April 2, 2014, minutes were approved as presented.

COMMENTS FROM PERSONS PRESENT - none

PRESENTATIONS - Jon Keintz reported the Babe Ruth board has been working to bring the budget out of the red and noted all the volunteer work that had been done at Ryan Fields including mowing. The county no longer mows Ryan Field, but the fields are now in better condition. Player numbers are up, the budget is in the black, and the county parks money is being used for additional field improvements. He also noted their fund raising efforts. Their plan is to end this year in the black again. He noted volunteers have been integral to the improved field conditions.

Amy generally reviewed the city parks budgets noting that they continue to be constraint budgets.

Eric Burke with Sierra Park Board gave background on the development of the park in conjunction with Lewis and Clark County and the Helena School District, which provides maintenance, and noted the amenities it includes. He noted the park and parking lot are regularly full or overflowing. He also mentioned some of the upcoming improvements the volunteers will try to make. One of the projects would be extending irrigation at the fourth ballfield, and they requested up to \$10,324 from the county parks fund (northeast) to complete that project and others. Nancy noted there is about \$24,000 in the county parks development fund. Amy noted that Sierra may be a future site of the Kay's Kids program. There will be action at the June meeting for the funding request.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS - Standing Items: proposed regional park district: Amy reported the next tasks will be completed in-house by the city attorney and finance director. The information will then be taken to the participating entities. As things stand, the funding currently available for parks O&M does not fully fund for all the maintenance let alone for life-cycle costs when major items need to be replaced. The consultants have been asked to consider the four jurisdictions and then just Helena and Lewis and Clark County. Amy requested the Parks Board reconvene a subcommittee to focus on Phase 2, the 'what's in it for me' idea. Presentations will be made to the commissions before going out to the public. Melissa, Pat, and Jane volunteered to serve on the subcommittee as did Andy Nickol. The subcommittee will report in June. Tobacco-free parks update: Amy reported assessments are being organized and will be reported in July.

ACTION ITEMS - none

REPORTS

CITY - Amy invited everyone to the playground dedication June 10 at Centennial Park. She noted the parks department is coordinating with the community service office to arrange to arrange for offenders to pick up dog droppings at the Paws Park. She welcomed Liz to the city.

COUNTY -

HOLMAC - Jane reported they are working on signs and the HOLA police volunteers on open lands.

LINCOLN - Dennis has been working on getting Hooper Park open the week before Memorial Day.

RECREATION - Liz reported job offers have been made for seasonal employees. She is working on contracts for Helena Housing and East Helena to participate in the Kay's Kids program. The website is current. Amy noted the department will be participating in National Park and Recreation Month in July with a couple of events and suggested the July Park Board meeting be held at the Mountain View Meadow park.

MAINTENANCE - Craig reported spring activity is ongoing. Work continues on the bike park. The urban forest division is busy with the new arborist and two seasonal employees on staff.

FAIR BOARD - Dave reported the fairgrounds are busy with events every weekend and urged everyone to vote on the fairgrounds levy.

PLAYABLE PLAYGROUND -

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BIKE HELENA - Pat reported the Ales for Trails coming up at the fairgrounds and an on-line video of biking in Helena.

SCHOOL DISTRICT -

OTHER - Melissa reported the city is receiving a grant for ADA accessibility downtown.

Andres reported the Henderson bridge is dead for lack of funding and that work is ongoing on the Centennial trail east from Montana toward Walmart.

COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (BOARD MEMBERS) Standing item: parks maintenance district; tobacco-free parks; Sierra Park funding request

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE: June 4, 2014

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ADJOURN - 12:59 P.M.

Carol Kirkland
Recorder